

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GABORO 02109 071450Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----045865 081720Z /41

R 071050Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2651
INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MASERU
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L GABORNE 2109

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PROP PDEV WA SF BC
SUBJ: NAMIBIA: REPORT OF CLANDESTINE UN FILM OPERATION

REF: STATE 165027 AND PREVIOUS

1. THE FOLLOWING REPORT ON ACTIVITY IN THIS AREA OF THE UNITED NATIONS PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE (PIO) IS SUBMITTED AS OF POSSIBLE INTEREST IN VIEW OF RECENT EXCHANGES ON THIS SUBJECT.

2. EN ROUTE TO LESOTHO JUNE 30, I MET TWO UN PIO OFFICIALS, ONE A MR DAVIS, WHO SAID THEY WERE FILMING IN BOTSWANA, LESOTHO, ZAMBIA AND TANZANIA, AS WELL AS SOUTH AFRICA, TO PRODUCE A FILM ENTITLED "A HISTORY OF SOUTH AFRICA FROM THE BLACK POINT OF VIEW". DISCUSSION WITH UNDP RES REP HERE CONFIRMS THAT FILM CREW SPENT TWO WEEKS IN BOTSWANA AND WOULD BE RETURNING SOON FOR ANOTHER WEEK. RES REP ADDED THAT CREW HAD MANAGED TO FILM IN SOUTH AFRICA DESPITE SUSPICIONS AND AT LEAST ONE UNHAPPY ENCOUNTER WITH SAG SECURITY WHICH LED
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TO EXPULSION OF ONE CAMERAMAN. LOCAL UN RES REP SAID A MRS BERNSTEIN (PHONETIC), A CITIZEN OF SOUTH AFRICA, HAD CONTRIBUTED SIGNIFICANTLY TO THE FILMING IN THE REPUBLIC AND HAD SUCCEEDED IN ALLAYING SAG SUSPICIONS.

3. MR DAVIS SAID THE FILM CREW HAD BEEN DOING RESEARCH FOR "SEVERAL YEARS" IN PREPARATION FOR THE PRESENT FIELD WORK.

HE SAID FILMING CONSISTED OF INTERVIEWS AND DISCUSSIONS WITH
BLACKS WHO HAVE LEFT SOUTH AFRICA.

4. COMMENT: THE UN PIO FILM CREW MADE NO SECRET OF ITS
ACTIVITY IN CONVERSATION; AT THE SAME TIME, THEY DID NOT
VOLUNTEER INFORMATION NOR DID UN RES REP INDICATE HE BELIEVED
THERE WAS ANY PARTICULAR SENSITIVITY IN FILMING PRODUCTION.
SINCE THE CREW IS EXPECTED HERE NEXT WEEK, BEFORE GOING TO
ZAMBIA AND TANZANIA, IT IS POSSIBLE THAT FURTHER MEETINGS WITH
THE FILM CREW MAY OCCUR. IF DEPARTMENT HAS SPECIAL INTEREST
IN FURTHER INFORMATION, SUGGEST WE BE INFORMED ASAP.
NORLAND

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REPORTS, FILMS, ALLEGATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978GABORO02109
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780280-1129
Format: TEL
From: GABORONE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780787/aaaacved.tel
Line Count: 74
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 6365e779-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 78 STATE 165027
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2091029
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NAMIBIA: REPORT OF CLANDESTINE UN FILM OPERATION
TAGS: PROP, PDEV, WA, SF, BC
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/6365e779-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014